

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoon (US 2003/0108236) in view of Chiang (USP 6,144,701). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 of the present application claim:

a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images taken by a plurality of cameras, based on viewpoint information from the request information analyzed by the request information analyzing unit and decodes and supplies selected data . . . (emphasis added)

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Yoon does not disclose or suggest the multiple viewpoint image supply unit selecting necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images, and then decodes.

Therefore, the Examiner relies on the Chiang reference and alleges that it discloses “a coding unit (fig. 2, items 205, 225) that encodes image data synthesized by a[n] image synthesizing unit (unit responsible for incoming items 200, 210 of fig. 2),” and concludes that it “would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art . . . for the image data selected by the multiple view point image supply unit of Yoon to be coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images as taught by Chiang.” Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the Office Action, The Examiner takes a position that items 2910, 2920, and 2940 shown in Fig. 29 of Yoon correspond to the “multiple view point image supply unit” of the present invention.

With regard to Fig. 29, which has been relied upon by the Examiner, Yoon states, in paragraph [0211]:

The camera site comprises a set of stereoscopic cameras 30 and 32, a receiver 2950, a microcomputer 2940, a pair of camera controllers 2910 and 2920, the pair of transmitters 2900 and 2930.

As acknowledges by the Examiner, however, Yoon does not store coded multiple viewpoint image data, and decoding the data thereafter.

The Chiang reference discloses, in Fig. 2, encoders 205 and 225 that encode left and right channel sequences 200 and 210, respectfully, and transmits to the MUX 220, and decoders 240 and 250 that decode encoded left and right channel sequences, respectively, received by DMUX 230. However, Chiang does not disclose or suggest that the left and right channel sequences encoded by the encoders 205 and 225 are “stored,” as required in claim 1.

In view of this, even assuming that Yoon and Chiang can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, modify Yoon by providing an encoder upstream of the transmitter 2930 and a decoder at a downstream of the receiver 2970 shown in Fig. 29, and would not conceive the foregoing claimed feature of the present invention.

Accordingly, Yoon in view of Chiang fails to disclose or suggest “a multiple viewpoint image supply unit which selects necessary image data from coded and stored multiple viewpoint image data of images,” as recited in claims 1 and 2.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the rejections of the bas claim and any intervening claims.

In view of this, claim 4 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1 and claim 5 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 2 to place them in condition for allowance.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Applicants also appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 6-10 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

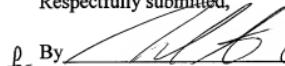
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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